

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

10/16/85

Closing Arguments Waited in Rewald Trial

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The Ronald Rewald trial is "all over except for the shouting," as one lawyer put it.

Attorneys for both sides have been huddled in their offices since Monday preparing for the "shouting," or closing arguments, expected to take up most of today.

No more motions will be filed. No more complaints will be lodged with the judge. No more witnesses will take the stand. After 11 weeks, everything that either side could do to help its case has been done.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Peyton, a veteran trial lawyer, will give the first part of the government's closing argument.

He will be followed by Brian Tamanaha, the young deputy federal public defender who has been the point man in Rewald's defense.

Theodore Greenberg, a special attorney from the Justice Department who has been involved in a number of trials involving the CIA, will conduct the final part of the government's closing argument.

THE GOVERNMENT gets to address the jury twice, the jury will be told, because it has the burden of proving that Rewald is guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Both sides are expected to argue that legal concept at length. The defense case has been framed around creating doubt in the minds of the jurors. Should one juror of the 12-person panel not be convinced that Rewald is guilty of fraud, perjury and tax evasion, the case will end in a mistrial. The government will then be faced with the costly and time-consuming process of retrial.

Ironically, none of the 18 people who have been sitting in the jury box for more than two months know if they are jurors or alternates. After the closing arguments are complete, U.S. Judge Harold Fong will dismiss the six alternate jurors. The alternates have been known only to the judge and attorneys, to assure that all of the jurors will pay attention during the long trial.

The unusually large number of alternates was chosen because of the possibility that one or more jurors would be forced, through illness or other problems, to withdraw.

NONE OF the jurors, however, has been forced to drop out of the trial. In fact, there have been only a few times when trial was delayed because a juror was late getting to the courtroom.

None of the jurors has even appeared to have dozed off during the long trial. That may be because they have seen a long line of colorful, famous and sometimes mysterious people taking the stand to testify.

Jurors watched a number of former CIA agents take the stand and describe their association with Rewald. They did not, however, see hard-boiled agents in trenchcoats. They saw one agent, Jack Kindschi, break down in tears as he described how his mother lost her life savings to Rewald.

They saw former CIA office chief Jack Rardin get choked up when he described how he was reprimanded for his handling of Rewald. Rardin said it was the only "black spot" on his 30-year CIA record.



Ronald Rewald
Lawyers ready case for jury

THE JURY saw Jack Lord angrily suggest that Rewald had told a "damnable lie" when he said Lord had an office with Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong. But the famous television actor smiled and nodded at the jury as he left the stand.

The jury saw a string of women take the stand and testi-

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fy that they received money from Rewald for social or sexual contact. There was standing room only in the court when blonde model Cynthia Brooks, a Playboy centerfold, stepped into the witness box. She told the jury she had received some money from Rewald, but also lost a good deal of her own when the company collapsed in 1983.

The jury heard Rewald's former partner, Sunlin Wong, describe how Rewald once asked him to try to bribe a Waikiki gypsy to give a fake spiritual reading to an elderly woman Rewald was trying to cultivate as an investor.

There was some chuckling in the court when Wong described how he attended the Los Angeles "funeral" of J. Randall Dillingham. Dillingham, along with Bishop and Baldwin, did not actually exist. The 36-year-old Wong said he merely walked the streets of Los Angeles for a day until it was time to return from the "funeral."

WONG STILL is serving a two-year prison term after pleading guilty to mail and security fraud for his part in running Rewald's company.

Some jurors were seen chuckling when Capt. Ned Avery took the stand. The 74-year-old retired airline pilot and former Rewald consultant made cracks to the judge, argued with defense attorneys and gave the "shaka" sign to the jury.

The jury heard testimony

from everybody from a National Football League official to Rewald's bodyguard. The government pulled no punches in choosing which of the 400 investors who lost money it would put on the stand. There was a blind man, a crippled elderly woman and a woman who lost her husband and sons in a plane crash.

IN CONTRAST to the more than 100 witnesses put on by the government, the defense put on fewer than 10.

The jury also did not see the man who was to be the trial's star witness, Rewald himself. At the last minute, Rewald decided not to take the stand. The reason, according to his attorneys, was that Judge Fong refused to let Rewald testify about the full range of Rewald's association with the CIA. The judge ruled months before the trial that the only CIA evidence that could be allowed by the defense would be that showing the CIA actually managed, directed or controlled investor money or BBRD&W.

Sometime this afternoon, after the "shouting" subsides, the jury will begin to weigh all of the evidence it has heard. Then, after what is expected to be days of deliberations, the jury will return to the courtroom with its verdict. It is fitting that the courtroom is named "Aha Kupono," or "Justice."